

August 5, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Commission Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
CY-B 402  
Washington D.C. 25554

Re: Proceeding 03-167

Dear Commissioners:

Many issues have been raised regarding deregulation of the telecommunications industry in Ohio. The Springfield-Clark County Chamber of Commerce is very encouraged that the Federal Communications Commission is addressing these issues and is undertaking careful consideration in the granting to SBC the ability to provide long distance service.

The Springfield-Clark County business community believes in competition in all marketplaces and especially in areas such as telecommunications services which are critical to all businesses.

Most companies are interested in contracting with one provider for both local and long distance services and there should be more competition if SBC is permitted to enter the long distance market.

Our small businesses are dependent upon having affordable and reliable local phone service. There is a concern that without the ability to provide both local and long distance service that SBC will not have sufficient revenue to economically maintain our local telephone infrastructure.

We trust that the Federal Communications Commission will insure that SBC complies with their legislated service requirements and will not be permitted unfair competitive advantages over other telecommunications service providers serving our area. We hope that you will expedite consideration of SBC's request to provide long distance service. Thank you for your consideration and timely deliberation of this issue.

Sincerely,

J.C. Wallace  
President